



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 27, 2010

## **SUPPORTING HOMELESS YOUTH IN VICTORIA Through the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter**

VICTORIA – With cold, rainy nights on the way, thoughts turn to Victoria’s homeless population. Beacon Community Services staff and partners of the **Out of the Rain Youth Shelter** program are once again gearing up to provide a hot meal and a safe, warm place for Victoria’s homeless youth to spend the night.

Homelessness is a complex issue, often about more than not having a permanent roof over your head. Underlying mental health and addictions issues sometimes complicate the lives of homeless youth. For kids who have lost their way, the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter program can be the difference between life on the street and a path back to a place where they can reach their full potential. It provides an opportunity to connect with people and services that can help.

Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin is passionate about the need to find ways to protect youth in our community, “It is hard to believe that there are young people in our community with no place to go each night,” said Mayor Fortin. “It is important that each of us to do what we can to help. Out of the Rain provides more than just a dry and safe place to sleep - it connects youth to the people and resources they need to move out of homelessness.”

### **There is something you can do to help.**

**Join Beacon Community Services along with Ed Bain for the Out of the Rain Dinner and Auction** at Fireside Grill on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event will feature beautiful works of art by local artists and luxurious gift packages donated by local businesses. Enjoy the Fireside Grill’s fabulous three course meal along with the excitement of a live auction. Tickets are \$65 each and all proceeds go directly to the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter.

This program is part of a range of services Beacon is able to offer with the support of partners and funders such as VIHA, the Ministry for Children and Family Development, BC Housing the Out of the Rain Coalition and many more. Beacon Community Services took over as lead agency of this vital program in 2006, and has provided a safe haven for hundreds of homeless youth since then. Last year, over 200 youth were served by this program, which is funded largely by charitable donations.

For tickets to the Out of the Rain Dinner and Auction,  
Call 250-656-5537 or visit Beacon’s Quadra Office at 2723 Quadra Street or  
SHOAL Centre at 10030 Resthaven Drive in Sidney

For more information about Beacon Community Services or the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter:  
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